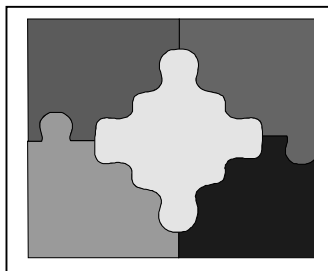


Chapter 4: Census Blocks

Census Blocks



A census block generally is a small area bounded by a series of streets, roads, railroads, streams, bodies of water, or other visible physical and cultural features, and some legal boundaries. The concept is basically the same as that of a "city block." Census blocks are the smallest geographic area for which the Census Bureau collects and tabulates decennial census data. Census data for census blocks serve as a valuable source of information for small-area geographic studies.

Census 2000 Collection Block Numbers

The block numbers that appear on the Census Bureau's maps that you will use for Address List Review are called "collection block numbers." They are four or five-digit numbers assigned within county or a statistically equivalent entity. The sole purpose of these numbers is to identify every area in the United States with a unique number to use when taking Census 2000.

Census 2000 Tabulation Block Numbers

After data collection operations are completed, the Census Bureau will update the TIGER data base with new streets and other features found during the enumeration and then create a new block numbering system, known as Census 2000 tabulation block numbers. There will be no numeric relationship between collection block numbers and the tabulation block numbers, except where coincidental. The tabulation blocks will nest within the 2000 block groups, which will nest within 2000 census tracts, which most data users find helpful as they work with Census 2000 data. The Census Bureau will produce comparability files that will link the Address List Review block numbers to the 2000 tabulation block numbers, the 1990 block numbers to the 2000 collection block numbers, and the 1990 block numbers to the 2000 tabulation block numbers.